

Dear folks who kindly attended or registered for the DSeis-PROTEA meetings at Wits and Rits Universities in Johannesburg and Tokyo in January and June 2024, or who are keeping in touch.

6 July 2024 Hiroshi Ogasawara

5 October 2024 updated

2024-01-15	Yasuo Yabe submitted PROTEA pre-proposal to ICDP
2024-01-22	DSeis-PROTEA meeting at Wits Univ. Johannesburg
2024-01-23	(73 people from 9 countries attended/registered, including Dr. Kunkel, ICDP;
2024-01-24	43 SA; 15 Jpn; 7 Ind; 2 USA and Germany; 1 Canada, China, Poland, Taiwan)
2024 March	ICDP Science Advisory Group meeting
2024-04-22	ICDP/IODP townhall meeting during EGU in Vienna
2024-04-23	2 papers on DSeis-PROTEA project presented at EGU in Vienna
2024-05-08	ICDP SAG letter suggests PROTEA team to address several questions
2024-05-22	Yabe gave a presentation on PROTEA at Japan Drilling Earth Science Consotium Townhall meeting
2024-05-23	5 papers presented at JpGU 2024 including an invited talk by Kieft.
2024-06-03	DSeis-PROTEA meeting at Ritsumeikan Tokyo Campus (36 people from 5 countries attended, including Dr. Kunkel, ICDP; 27 Jpn; 4 SA; 3 Germany; 1 USA Poland)
2024-06-04	Courtesy call to Minister Chansellor at Embassy of South Africa
2024-06-06	Supplemental meeting on mineral/chemical analysis: 5 people
2024-06-22	During SEISMIX 2024 ( <a href="https://www.seismix2024.se/">https://www.seismix2024.se/</a> ), in Sweden, Wits Univ. DAS team
2024-06-22	and Japanese seismic survey team could have a very good meeting.
2024-08-27	We promoted PROTEA at South Africa - Japan University Forum in South Africa
2024-08-29	<a href="https://www0.sun.ac.za/japancentre/6th-south-africa-japan-university-forum-saju-6/">https://www0.sun.ac.za/japancentre/6th-south-africa-japan-university-forum-saju-6/</a>
2024-8-30	We showcased new Japanese geotechnology and promote PROTEA at Institute of Mine
2024-9-2-6	Seismology, Somerset West, Schools of Mining Engineering and Geoscience at Wits Univ., and Driefontein mine.
2024-09-10	ICDP e-mailed Yabe to allow us to submit an ICDP workshop proposal.
2024-09-12	SA National Committee for the ICDP confirmed to assist the PROTEA workshop.

Almost every Tuesday DSeis-PROTEA core members have had Zoom meeting at 2 p.m. SA time.

Thank you very much for attending the DSeis-PROTEA meetings or being interested in the activities of the DSeis-PROTEA project.

On 15 January, 2024, Yasuo submitted to ICDP a pre-proposal for the PROTEA project to drill into the M5.5 mainshock hypocenter or strong motion generation areas and further explore deep life. On 10 September 2024, ICDP e-mailed Yasuo to allow us to submit an ICDP workshop proposal in January 2025 !

**On 22-24 January**, the results of the DSeis project and the PROTEA project were very well reviewed at Wits Univ. Johannesburg. The technical showcases were of interest to people from the mining and related industries. Core repositories were discussed at the Council for Geosciences. Dr. Kunkel, ICDP, kindly showed us the way forward.

**On 8 May**, Yasuo received a letter from the ICDP Science Advisory Group with some suggestions on how to address some issues. Most of the issues had already been addressed before Yasuo received the ICDP SAG letter, and were presented and discussed at the DSeis-PROTEA meeting at the Ritsumeikan Tokyo campus on 3 June and at subsequent related meetings. The co-authors of the ICDP Science Plan 2014-2019 (Tom Kieft and Jim Mori) joined the discussion. Dr. Kunkel, ICDP, kindly advised us again on the way forward.

Also, the PROTEA project has been promoted at Annual Assembly of EGU and JpGU, J-DESC Townhall Meeting, and SA Embassy courtesy call, SEISMIX 2024, and will be promoted in the 6<sup>th</sup> South Africa-Japan University Forum in Stellenbosch on 27-29 August.

We hope Yasuo can finalize a reply letter to ICDP SAG soon and can show you the ICDP SAG letter and his reply soon with more detail.

Yours Sincerely

Hiroshi

**On Tuesday, 4 June**, we were able to report to Minister Jeppie during a courtesy visit to the South African Embassy.



**A photo after our courtesy call at SA Embassy Tokyo on Tuesday, 4 June 2024.**

**Middle: His Excellency, Minister-Counselor Mr. Jeppie** and Ogasawara

Others from left to right:

**Assoc. Prof. Yohey Suzuki** (Univ. Tokyo; JSPA SA NRF bilateral research 2023-2024; Co-PI with Dr. Castillo; ICDP Platinum mine drilling project member),

**Assoc. Prof. Yasuo Yabe** (Tohoku Univ.; SATREPS group leader; ICDP DSeis co-PI; ICDP PROTEA main-PI;

JSPS-SA NRF bilateral program 2018-2019; co-PI with Assoc. Prof. Musa Manzi with Wits Univ.)

**Dr. Julio Castillo** (Free State Univ.; a member of ICDP DSeis and Platinum mine projects; ICDP PROTEA project co-PI; JSPS-SA NRF bilateral research 2023-2024; co-PI with Yohey Suzuki).

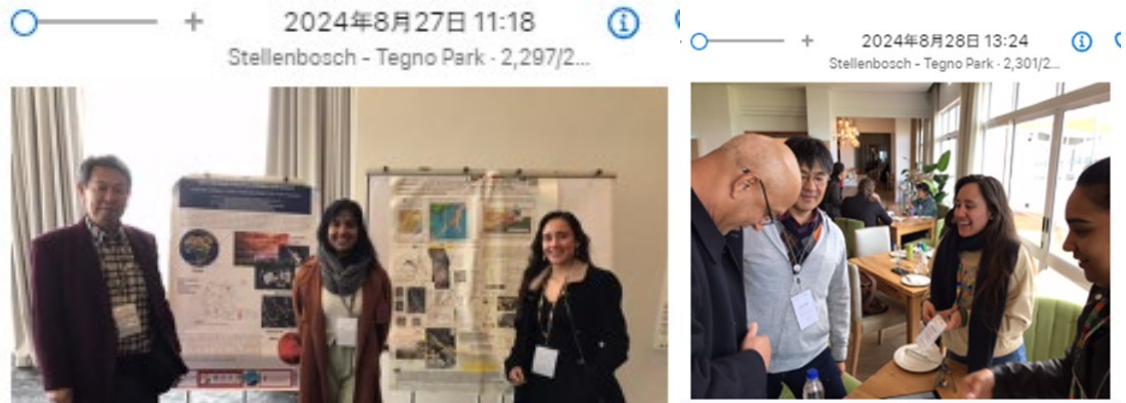
**Prof. Tom Kieft** (New Mexico Tech, USA; **one of the legends in geomicrobiology; a co-author of ICDP Science Plan 2014-2019;** co-PIs of DSeis and PROTEA).

**On 24-28 June, Prof. Kanao and Mr. Fujita** (my last graduate student who completed MSc thesis in February) attended the SEISMIX conference in Sweden (<https://www.seismix2024.se/>) and meet in person with **Prof. Durrheim, Prof. Manzi, and students from Wits University**. They discussed in person in detail the seismic imaging of the PROTEA drilling site. **The next symposium will be held at Wits University in 2026. The 2026 SEISMIX at Wits University** will be a very good opportunity to introduce the results of the ICDP DSeis project, the progress of the PROTEA project, and Dr. Fujita's PhD thesis supervised by Prof. Kanao.



**The photos from Prof. Kanao during SEISMIX in Sweden last week.** Left: Prof Durrheim and Prof. Kanao, Middle: Wits students introducing the next SEISMIX will be at Wits Univ. in 2026. Right: **a photo from Prof. Manzi** with Fujita-kun.

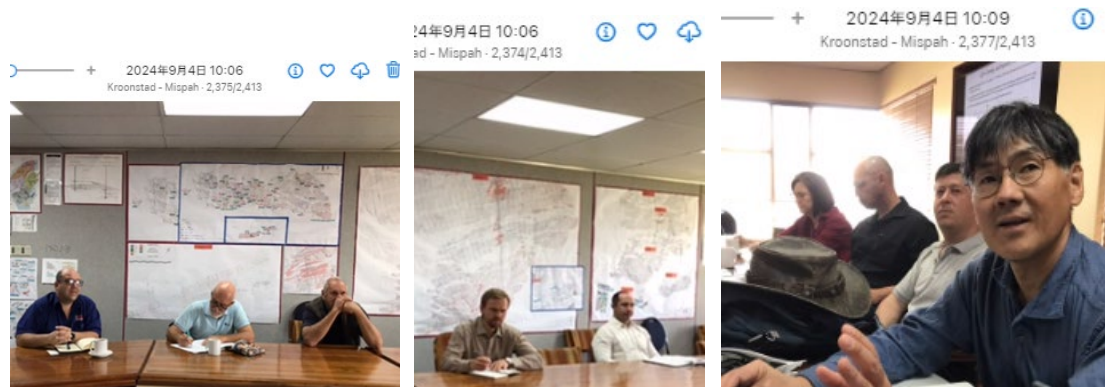
**On 27-29 August,** Yasuo, Julio's students (Tori and Anazea), and Hiroshi reported on our activity at SA-Japan University Forum in Stellenbosch. Minister-Councilor Mr. Jeppie and Mr. Watanebe (JST International Department) gave us kind words for our good progress.



Hiroshi, Tori, Anazea, his Excellency, Minister-Counselor Mr. Jeppie, and Yasuo.



Meetings with Aleks and people at Institute of Mine Seismology and Wits Univ.



Meeting at Moab Khotsoeng mine (above) and Driefontein mine (right)

